Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 226382 ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HA, BF

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS

REF: STATE 221796

- 1. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN PUBLICIZING RECENT CHANGES IN INS PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING UNDOCUMENTED HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS. IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE DETERRENT EFFECT ON ILLEGAL EMIGRATION TO THE U.S., DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE POSTS' USE OF THIS MATERIAL TO FULLEST EXTENT APPROPRIATE.
- 2. UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, IN RESPONSE TO GROWING CONCERN ABOUT UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS IN SOUTH FLORIDA, HAVE CHANGED THEIR PROCEDURES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 226382

PROCESSING NEW ARRIVALS.

3. DESIGNED TO SPEED UP DEPORTATION OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, ADDITIONAL JUDGES HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO HEAR DEPORTATION AND EXCLUSION CASES. MOST NEWLY ARRIVING ALIENS WITHOUT VISAS OR OTHER ENTRY DOCUMENTS ARE BEING HELD IN CUSTODY BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, AND WORK

PERMITS ARE NOT ISSUED IN THESE CASES. THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR CHANGE, SINCE PREVIOUSLY MANY SUCH ALIENS WERE

ALLOWED TO WORK PENDING HEARINGS.

4. THE U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE COAST GUARD AND THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, IN APPREHENDING AND ARRESTING UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS WHO ARRIVE IN FLORIDA BY BOAT. IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANCE OF SUCH IMMIGRANTS ESCAPING ARREST AND PROMPT HEARINGS. CHRISTOPHER

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